

INDIGENOUS SUMMIT ON SIERRA NEVADA FOREST HEALTH

September 19-20, 2023
Maidu Museum and Historical Site, Roseville, CA.

ACCORDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

Among the The Indigenous First Nations and Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada Bio Region

WHEREAS, as the Indigenous First Nations and Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada Bio Region, we recognize the common human right to preserve and develop our own cultures and ways of life and that maintaining our cultural diversity and well-being is vital to today's global environment and future, and

WHEREAS, the Indigenous First Nations and Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada have survived many common experiences, we declare and affirm a commonness of home, heritage, vision, and goals, and

WHEREAS, we recognize that the Sierra Nevada Bio Region is critical to our cultures, identity and very survival and that as Indigenous people we have a responsibility to preserve, protect, restore, and sustainably develop these unique ecologies for future generations and our non-human relatives, and

WHEREAS, as the Indigenous first peoples and guardians of the Sierra Nevada, we recognize the significance of traditional and customary stewardship as essential to the future protection and development of these critical cultural landscapes, places, and ecologies, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that these Indigenous leaders and peoples of the Sierra Nevada Bio Region gathered at the Maidu Museum and Historic Site, enter into this "Accords of Friendship and Cooperation" to declare the terms for our future Cooperation in the fields of Cultural Security and Wellbeing, Indigenous Led Natural Resource Management and Guardianship, Indigenous Resiliency and Healing Informed Disaster Planning and Recovery, Indigenous-Centered Trade, and Restorative Economics of the Sierra Nevada's Indigenous First Nations and Peoples, and

THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, these parties hereby declare and affirm these following principles, rights, and agreements:

1. **THAT**, our peoples have the right to preserve and develop our own culture and ways of life as we determine, and
2. **THAT**, the highest priority of our cooperation, is the involvement of Indigenous youth as critical to the promise of developing thriving, living traditional cultures and ecologies, and
3. **THAT** on the basis of our inseparable connection with our homelands, we declare ourselves to be Brothers and Sisters, and agree to sustain ongoing interaction and dialog to promote healthy Indigenous futures and resilient Sierra Nevada Forest Ecologies, and
4. **THAT**, we affirm the rights to our sacred sites, and the obligations of all peoples, organizations, countries and states to respect, honor and protect these places, and recognize that the Sierra Nevada Bio Region is an ancestral living relative, ancient ecology, and source of life and meaning, and is entitled to thrive, evolve and exist for itself and beyond its value to humans, and
5. **THAT**, we will make every effort to strengthen the cooperation and assistance between our fraternal nations and peoples in the fields of cultural and environmental restoration to revitalize our cultures and homelands, and to support efforts to protect and promote the Indigenous guardianship of essential cultural ecologies and their wellbeing here in the Sierra Nevada, and
6. **THAT**, we will carry-out joint actions and endeavors for the promotion and the development of our own cultural richness and wellbeing; organize exchanges of experiences and ideas in the spheres of restorative healing and resilience, public affairs, native centered trade and commerce, language revitalization, thriving cultural habitats, land access and tenure, and
7. **THAT**, we will use the opportunities for the restoration of resilient Sierra Nevada Forest ecologies to promote indigenous resilience, knowledge, healing and science, traditional systems of responsibility and reciprocity, skills, tools, trade, and restorative/sustainable development, and
8. **THAT**, we strive to inspire ourselves and others to Honor and Protect our most Important Teachers, the Elders and the Land, and work to define and discover deeper relationships and healthy ways of cultural wellbeing as the major factors of preservation and development of our nations and peoples, and
9. **THAT**, opportunity Favors Prepared Nations and Peoples.

NOW BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we gathered together on the 19th and 20th day of September 2023 and bear witness to this Accords of Friendship and Cooperation, and agree to work to fulfill this vision of strength and wellbeing, for our precious homelands, for mothers and fathers, for our fellow brothers and sisters, for our long passed relatives, and for the unborn future of our nations.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, WE THE PARTIES GATHERED HAVE CAUSED THIS ACCORDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION TO BE EXECUTED AND HONORED